



THE MCNAIR MISSION

Fall 2011 Edition

The McNair Graduate Opportunity Program Official Newsletter
Recognizing outstanding student achievements and accomplishments

“You are a scholar in the McNair program for a reason. You have something special, and don’t forget this. It is easy to get lost in the mix of graduate students at your department and lose touch with your capabilities and smarts. But if you remind yourself that you are a McNair scholar, you remember that you are talented and that you deserve to be here and should be here.”

~Emily Pugh~

DIRECTOR’S LETTER

By: Matt Pearcey, Ph.D.

It takes just one person to believe in us for us to believe in ourselves. That’s what my third grade teacher taught me when I was having a hard time learning how to tell time. Mrs. Clark noticed that I was very quiet when she asked for volunteers to tell the class what time it was. Mrs. Clark took extra time with me. She helped me figure out what the big hand and the little hand of the clock meant so that I could catch up with the other third graders, and so that I would understand when lunch time and recess began (well, besides watching other students get up and leave the room). The similarities between my relationship with Mrs. Clark and the relationships that each of the McNair faculty mentors have with our McNair Scholars is striking. I am reminded that sometimes, regardless of our age, we need someone to help us once in a while. The same special attention, patience, and genuine care that Mrs. Clark showed me is exactly what our McNair Scholars need as they learn research skills, socialization into the graduate school experience, and academic writing. Luckily for students in the ISU McNair program they are supplied with extraordinarily talented faculty mentors who are expert researchers, authors, and college teachers.

Scholars participating in summer research will have the opportunity to create a research proposal and design and implement a research study. Through McNair seminars and individual work with faculty mentors, they will learn about research design, academic writing, presenting research via poster, and data analysis. Additionally students will participate in 20 GRE preparation sessions covering the analytical, verbal, and quantitative aspects of this graduate-school entrance exam. Lastly, this year students will have the opportunity to meet with nationally-recognized graduate school expert, Don Asher, who wrote The Graduate Admissions Essay. He will spend a full day with 16 McNair Scholars to reinforce etiquette with faculty, skills relevant to the graduate admission application process, and navigation of the political environment of the graduate school milieu.

A full summer schedule can be found [here](#).

This year’s participants include: Deborah Boling, Alyssa Brooks, Brittany Dean, Adam Edwards, Britany English, Alicia Hicks, Amanda Hubbard, Khajah Johnson, Matthew Price, Shannon Rosser, Kaliee Sholar, Dionna Thomas, Alexis Tucker, and Linda Williams.

To read their bios, follow this [link](#).

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CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT

January 11, 2012

New Scholars Orientation
3:00-4:00pm
Dreiser Hall 203

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### April 4, 2012

A Celebration of Student  
Research & Creativity  
Session 1: 11:00am-12:00pm  
Session 2: 11:00am-12:00pm

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April 11, 2012

Honors Banquet
5:30-7:30pm
HMSU 9th Floor Suite

RESEARCHING IN SICILY

By: Amy Dubois

I completed an eight week McNair research internship this summer, and the first three weeks of my internship was especially exciting. My research project was on 'Roman Symbols in American Architecture', and I traveled to Italy and Sicily to collect data.

As Julius Caesar said 'I [went], I saw, I conquered.' I went to Rome, Naples, Taormina, Sorrento, and Syracuse. I saw the Coliseum, Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Greek theaters in South Italy. The locals in each city enjoy talking to travelers, even if the traveler, like me, does not know Italian. As a result of this I picked up a few Italian words such as: 'Momma Mia', 'Chow', 'Scuzi', and 'Scuza.' I got to travel on a boat, plane, and train for the first time. I even conquered a goal to lose 10 pounds.

These experiences were not only fun, but they were invaluable to my research project. I was able to collect so much data as a result of this trip. For instance, I learned more about the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus within five minutes inside the Capitoline Museum than I had in a month of research back home. I learned that Baroque architecture started in Rome, and spread through Europe to America, which is one of the reasons why there are Roman symbols in American edifices. The data I collected on this trip made my article much more complete. The fact that the McNair Department supported me going on this trip during this internship shows their dedication to students receiving a one of a kind experience.

A NEW PARADIGM

By: Matt Pearcey, Ph.D.

When applying to graduate programs, applicants should consider the following items:

1. How the program is ranked nationally in its discipline. The prestige of the university is less important than the prestige and standing of a particular program.
2. Are the professors in the intended program active researchers? Thus, will they be able to help the graduate move on to a PhD program and/or find a position after graduation?
3. Does the applicant's academic background match with the stated admission requirements of the program? It is not enough to meet the minimum requirements. One must exceed the requirements in order to be competitive. This is especially true in a down economy where graduate applications are surging.
4. Obtain letters of recommendations not from the most prestigious person, but from a person who knows the applicant's academic, co-curricular, and personal qualities and thinks highly of you. Also, it is recommended that you request a copy of the letter – realizing that not all professors will agree to provide the copy to the applicant.
5. After acceptance at a number of schools, an applicant should visit, if possible, each school to meet with faculty, get a sense of the campus culture, and the experience the community in which the school resides.
6. A growing trend in this down economy is to have students visit graduate programs after acceptance to the academic program.
7. Students will be able to determine which campus best fits them from an academic and personal stance by going after acceptance and therefore avoids the danger of "falling in love" with a graduate program in the event the applicant is not accepted.

**MCNAIR WISHES DR. PEARCEY
BEST OF LUCK WITH HIS NEW
POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF
DIVERSITY AT MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD.**



**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION TO THE MCNAIR PROGRAM OVER THE
LAST FIVE YEARS!
~YOU WILL BE TRULY MISSED!~**

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

MCNAIR WELCOMES EIGHT NEWEST SCHOLARS!

**ALYSSA
BROOKS**

**BRITANY
DEAN**

**ADAM
EDWARDS**

**BRITTANY
ENGLISH**

**KHAJAH
JOHNSON**

**KALIEE
SHOLAR**

**DIONNA
THOMAS**

**ALEXUS
TUCKER**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FORMER ISU MCNAIR SCHOLAR, LOGAN FULFORD, TALKS ABOUT WHERE HE IS TODAY.



This fall Logan will be in his first year of earning his M.D. and Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee and working as both a scientist and as a junior physician at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He will be trained under Dr. Andrew Davidoff, St. Jude's Chief of Surgery, for a wide range of general procedures in addition to specialized kidney therapy for his graduate research. Also this fall,

he will be traveling to Brazil to aid tribal rainforest children plagued with a rare type of kidney cancer. Being a part of St. Jude's humanitarian efforts, Logan will also be part of the team devoted to finding the cause of this outbreak through efforts in molecular biosciences and medical practice."

Logan says, "I hope that once I finish graduate school, I will be able to perform clinical research to develop new therapeutics to treat cancer, utilizing both my physician and my scientist training to become the best doctor possible.

McNair came to me at a difficult time in my life. Not only did the services McNair provided benefit my education,

but the guiding invisible hand behind the program gently kept my feet anchored to the ground while pushing me to excel beyond my limits, becoming comfortable with myself, my skills and my choices in the process. The summer session gave me the funding I needed to conduct research in molecular biology and gave me the means to attend several discipline specific conferences featuring prominent scientists in my field. The guest speakers as well as the network that I built through McNair has benefited me greatly during my application process, my graduate mentoring process, and provided many things beyond just inspiration.

McNair is just one piece of a larger puzzle and one tool to help you achieve your dreams. The programs to which I applied recognized the skill set developed while I was a McNair Scholar. Don't be afraid of doing extra work and if at all possible, try continuing research throughout the academic year. With the research, comes the writing of research and writing is undoubtedly the most important skill I have going into graduate school. Take Ronald E. McNair's story and mission to heart, but let your skills and your talent shine through with the help of McNair and I sincerely believe you can get into any graduate program."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. MONCADA, PH.D.



Susan Moncada, Ph.D., CPA, and professor of accounting, earned her Bachelor's of Arts in Education at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, her Masters of Business Administration at Eastern Illinois University, and her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. In addition, Dr. Moncada is a Registered Certified Public Accountant, in Illinois. Dr. Moncada's teaching interests include accounting information systems, not-for profit accounting, and innovative teaching methods. Dr. Moncada has steadily received a slew of honors and awards for her excellence in teaching and service; they include:

- MERLOT Business Classics Award for instructional PowerPoint Game, Processing Integrity Challenge (July 2011)
- MERLOT International House Cup, Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT), Service Award (August 2008 & July 2011)
- IABPAD Research Award, "Skillfully Teaching Accounting and Finance Concepts Using Digital Learning Objects," International Academy of Business & Public Administration Disciplines (October 27, 2008).
- MERLOT Volunteer of the Year, MERLOT, July 27, 2005
- Excellence in Service Faculty Recognition Award, College of business, 2004
- Excellence in Teaching Faculty Recognition Award, College of Business, 2001

Dr. Moncada has been a professional test item writer and reviewer for the Uniform CPA examination and has published several articles. She is also the Associate Editor of Accounting for the MERLOT Business Editorial Board. Dr. Moncada has presented and published a variety of articles as well as instructional media throughout her career.

The article, "Fraud in Nonprofit Organizations: A Comparison of Pre-Fraud and Post-Fraud Public Support," co-authored with McNair Scholar, Justina Lindsey, was presented at the North American Accounting Associations Annual Conference during March of 2011. Ms. Lindsey has completed a MAcc from Southern Illinois University and will begin working as in Internal Auditor for the Illinois Auditor General in January.

DR. SCHAUMLEFFEL, PH.D.



Dr. Schaumleffel is an Associate Professor at ISU and the Executive Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (formerly American Humanics) on campus. He has written and made numerous presentations on leisure service administration in rural communities and small-towns in Illinois and Indiana, as well on topics related to managing youth programs and the role of program leaders in achieving youth development outcomes. In April 2006, Dr. Schaumleffel published an article on media relations in Parks and Recreation magazine. Also, he has recently published articles in the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration on: 1) The role of public park and recreation agencies and professionals in emergency management capacity-building, and 2) The relationship between individuals' attitudes towards public park and recreation services and an individuals' level of community satisfaction in rural Illinois communities.

He has also recently published an article in a British journal, *Managing Leisure*, on program leaders' intention to process recreation experiences to achieve targeted developmental outcomes and an article on professional student organizations in the Indiana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Journal.

Currently, Dr. Schaumleffel is completing a national study for the American Camp Association on Emerging Issues and Trends in American Camps; as well as a pedagogy article on designing and teaching fundraising education curricula. His other two major research projects underway are related to autism-friendly youth worker training, and the status of park foundations/friends groups in Indiana.

What is your history of involvement as a McNair research mentor?

"My relationship with the McNair Scholar Program began a few years ago after becoming acquainted with Dr. Pearcey. Dr. Pearcey and I began to cross-promote our programs to our students, McNair Scholars and Nonprofit Leadership Alliance students. A few of my nonprofit leadership students, such as McNair alum Carrielle Cofax, joined McNair, while some of his McNair Students, such as Asia Smith, joined the ISU Nonprofit Leadership Alliance."

"Since then, Dr. Pearcey and I co-advise students who are in both programs. Carrielle Cofax asked me to serve as her McNair Scholar mentor during the 2010-2011 academic, which led me to a closer relationship with Dr. Pearcey and his staff. Recently, Dr. Pearcey invited me to be one of the McNair Seminar Leaders for 2011-2012 to teach McNair Scholars about publishing their research."